

Versions of the U. P. I. story clipped below from the February 17 edition of the New Haven REGISTER have also appeared in the New Britain HERALD, the Hartford TIMES, the Bridgeport POST, and the Willimantic CHRONICLE.

Dodd Backs → CIA, Scores Detractors

WASHINGTON (UPI) — "Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., today strongly supported the Central Intelligence Agency and criticized those who have virtually made a "national pastime" of attacking the agency.

In a speech prepared for the Senate, Dodd said the charges against the CIA in recent months have been "almost as numerous as they are sensational."

"We have been told that the CIA has been running wild, that it has been functioning without control or supervision either by Congress or the administration, that it has been making foreign policy. The CIA has been criticized for the U2 overflights. It has been blamed for the Bay of Pigs disaster. And it has even been criticized for the anti-Mosadegh coup in Iran and for the overthrow of the pro-Communist Arbenz government in Guatemala," the Senator said.

"Baiting the CIA almost seems to have achieved the stature of a popular national pastime. It is a highly dangerous pastime because the CIA is one of the essential elements of our security," Dodd said.

Dodd said that far from being unsupervised, the CIA "is probably one of the most supervised agencies in the government. He noted that the Security Act of 1947 placed the agency under the direction and jurisdiction of the National Security Council.

The Senator said that criticizing the CIA was "something like beating a man who has his arms tied behind his back" since the agency in most instances cannot reply for reasons of security.

Dodd also defended the many supersecret activities of the CIA. "We cannot compete with communism if we confine ourselves to orthodox diplomacy and orthodox intelligence collection. Over and over and over gain, it has been demonstrated that a handful of trained Communists can seize control of a trade union or a student federation, or for that matter, of a country."

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He urged members of Congress to weigh their words carefully before they decide to attack the agency.